

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is withdrawn. By this Amendment, claim 3 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 4 and amended to further define the features therein. Claim 1 is amended to be consistent with claim 3 and should be rejoined when claim 3 is allowed. Therefore, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 2 and amended further define the features therein. Claims 2 and 4 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection and during the personal interview conducted on July 17, 2006. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiners Dye and Dicus at the July 17, 2006 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 3-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,165,587 to Nonaka. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 is cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 4 is moot.

Amended claim 3 calls for, among other features, that the second portion has a width greater than a width of the first portion taken at an interface between the first portion and the second portion. Support for this feature can be found, for example, on page 9, lines 1-4 and lines 9-12 of the specification.

Amended claim 3 also calls for that the space between the adjacent ones of the first portions is greater than the space between the adjacent ones of the second portions. Support for this feature can be found, for example, on page 10, lines 18-20 of the specification.

However, Nonaka fails to disclose at least the features that each of the linear portions has a first portion and a second portion, the second portion is closer to the base layer than the first portion, the second portion touches the base layer has a width greater than a width of the first portion taken at an interface between the first portion and the second portion, and that the space between the adjacent ones of the first portions is greater than the space between the adjacent ones of the second portions.

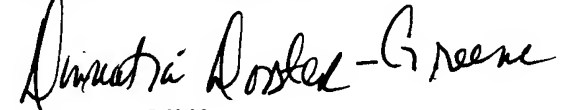
In view of the foregoing, claim 3 is not anticipated by Nonaka.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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